



Funded by the LIFE
Program of the EU

LIFE ÁGUEDA

RESTORING RIVER CONNECTIVITY FOR MIGRATORY FISH IN THE VOUGA RIVER BASIN

Conservation and Management Actions for Migratory Fish in the Vouga River Basin

(LIFE16 ENV/PT/000411)



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Universidade de Évora / MARE

Évora, 24.03.2026

INTER LIFE PT 2026





❖ LIFE 2014-2020 – ENVIRONMENT / ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCE EFFICIENCY

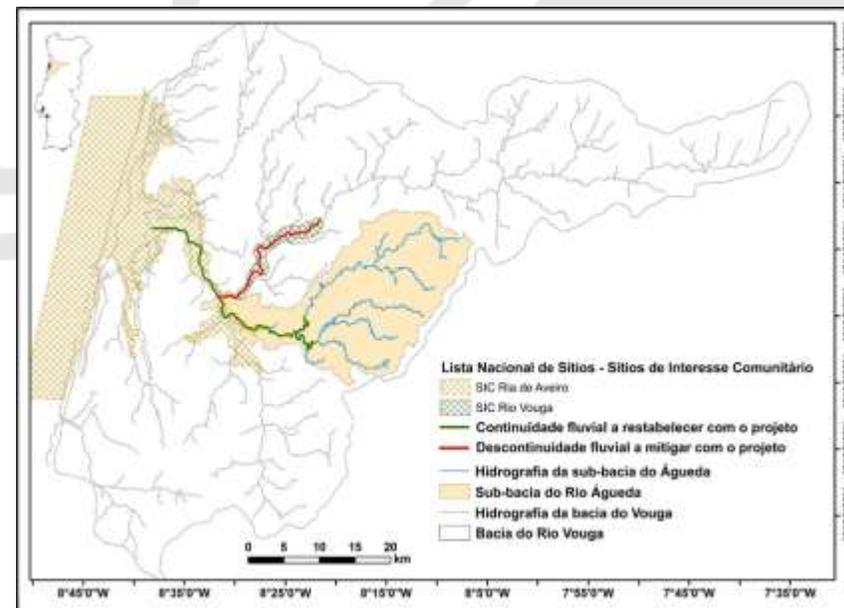
 **VOUGA RIVER BASIN**



01.08.2017
31.07.2025



€ 3.32 million



❑ **Coordinating Beneficiary:**



UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA



❑ **Associated Beneficiary:**



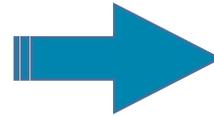
❑ **Institutional Support:**



❑ **Additional Support:**



- Elimination or mitigation of hydro-morphological pressures



- Reestablishment of conditions for a **Good Ecological Status** (WFD; RBMP).

➤ Proposed solutions and key actions:

- **Integration of demonstrative solutions for re-naturalizing river morphology**
 - Nature-like fish passages;
 - Removal of river barriers and re-naturalization of the river-bed;
 - Translocation program of juvenile European eels ;
 - Riparian habitat restoration (~50 km).
- **Recreational and commercial fisheries management**
- **Stakeholders' engagement and compatibility of ecosystem uses**



LIFE ÁGUEDA | TARGET SPECIES



Anadromous



Sea lamprey,
Petromyzon marinus

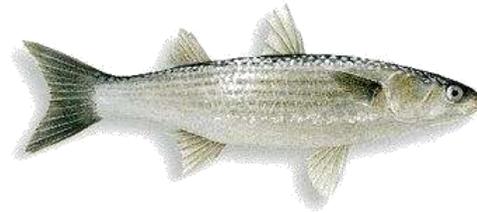


Allis shad, *Alosa alosa*



Sea trout, *Salmo trutta*

Catadromous



Thin lipped grey mullet,
Chelon ramada



European eel,
Anguilla anguilla

Potamodromous

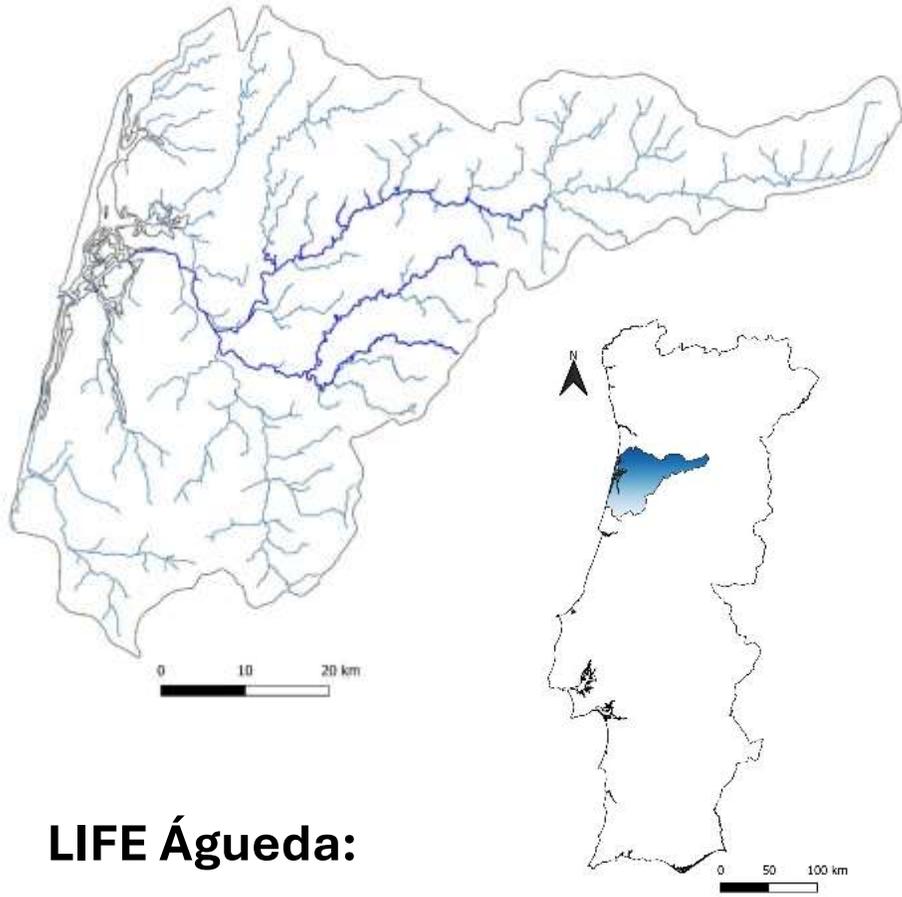


Barbel,
Luciobarbus bocagei



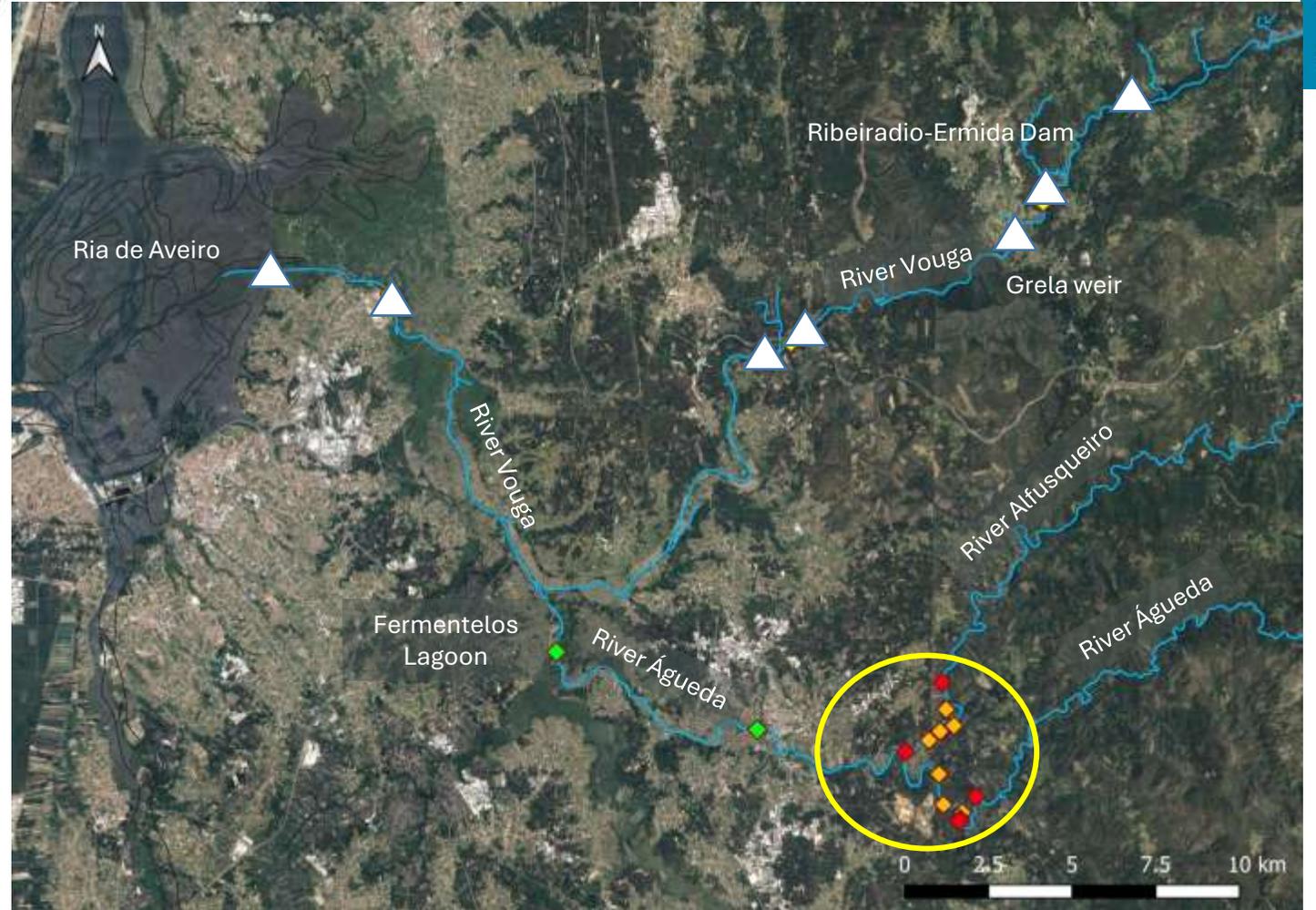
Nase,
Pseudochondrostoma polylepis

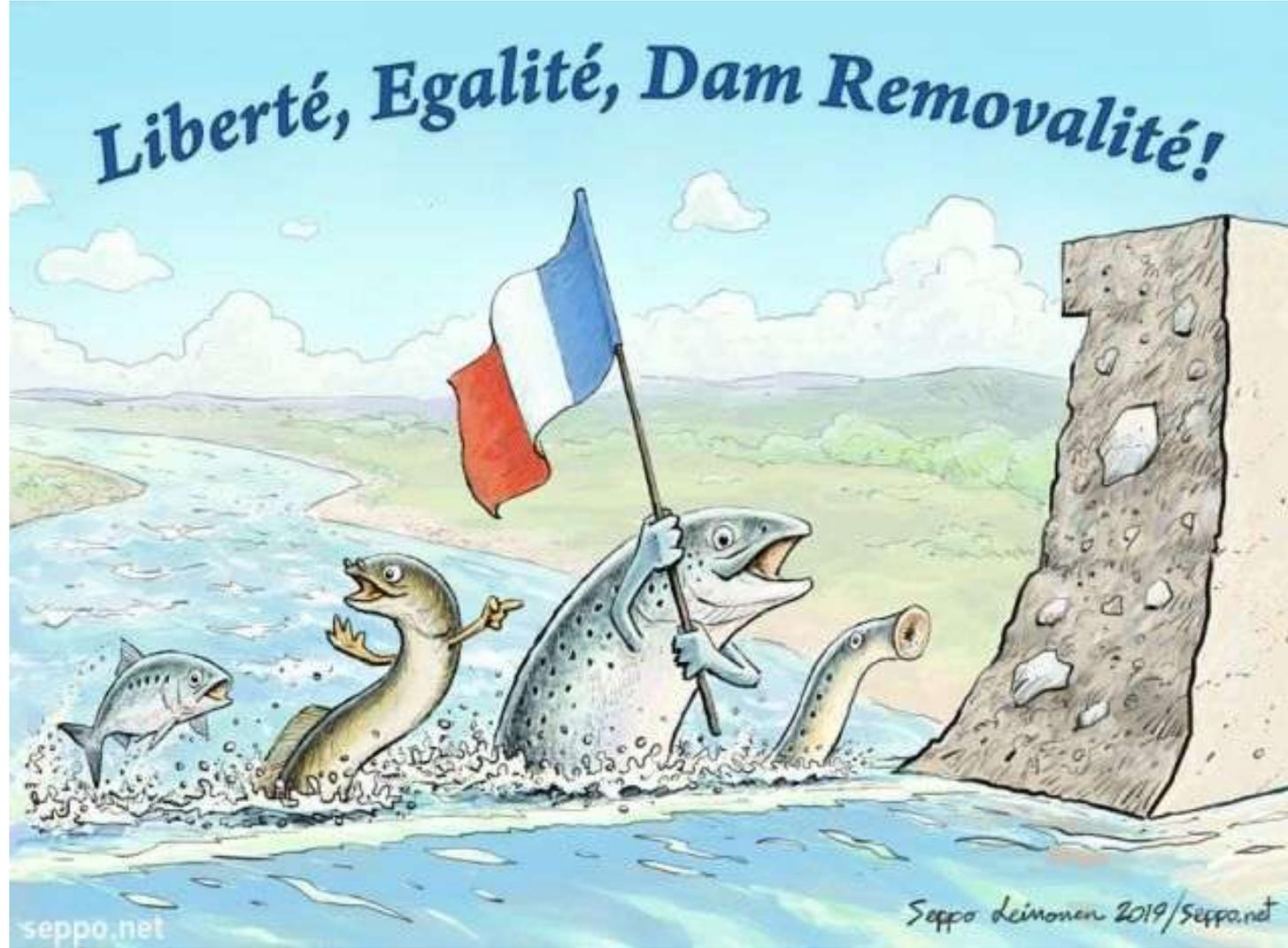
LIFE ÁGUEDA | IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO FISH MIGRATION



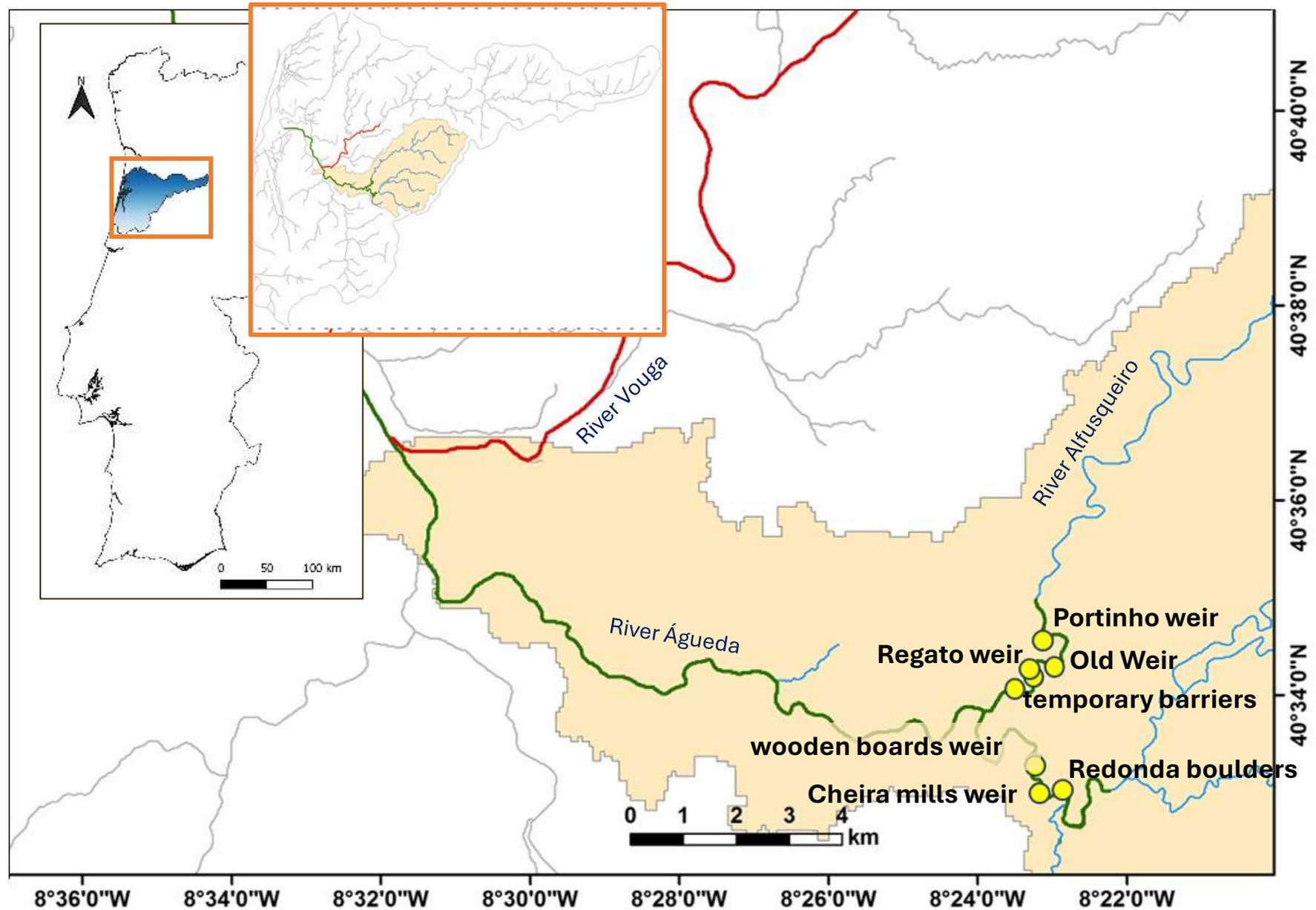
LIFE Águeda:

- ◆ - Type I (Fish pass devices)
- ◆ - Type II (Removals or structural adaptations)
- ◆ - Type III (Management plan)

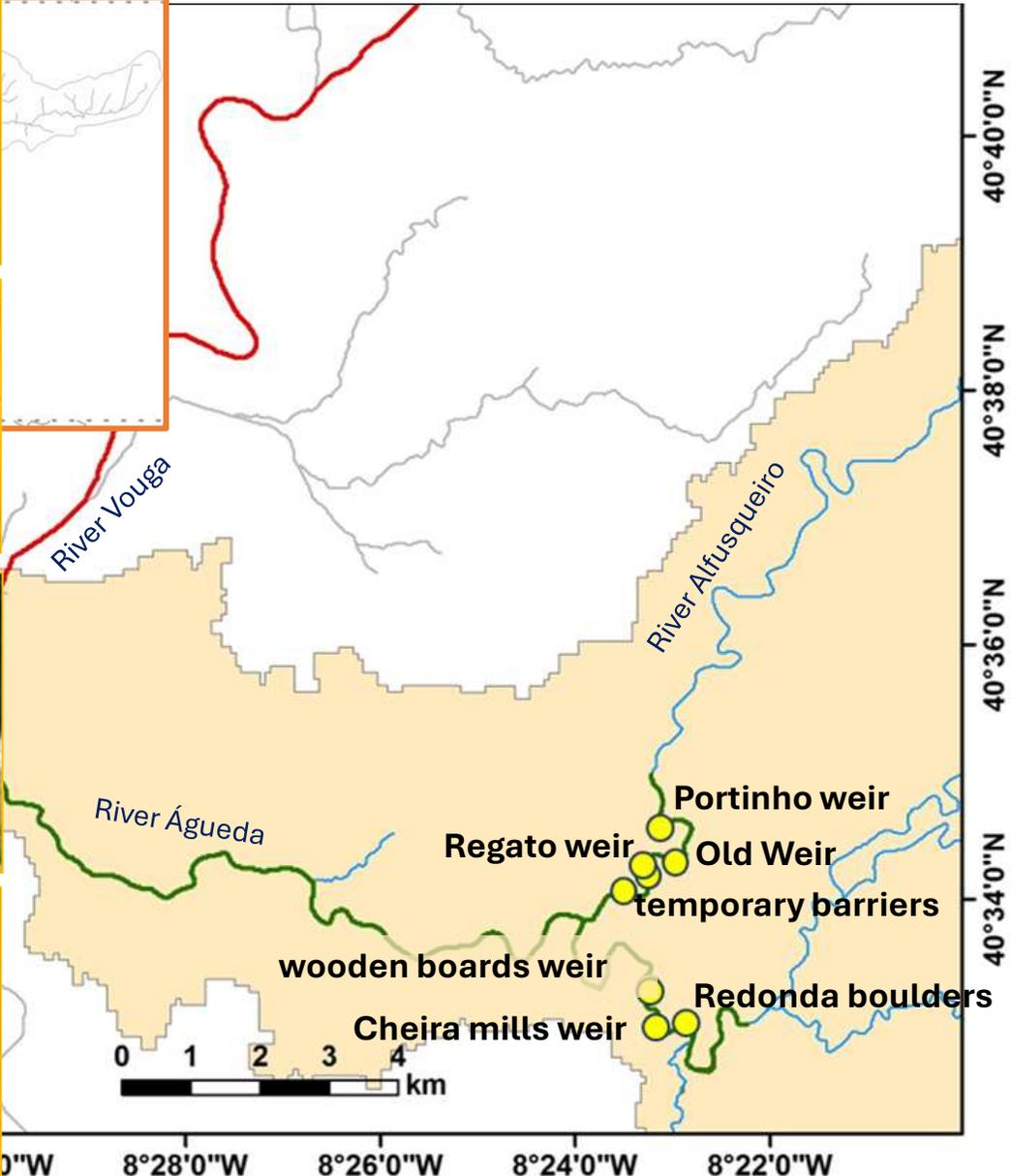
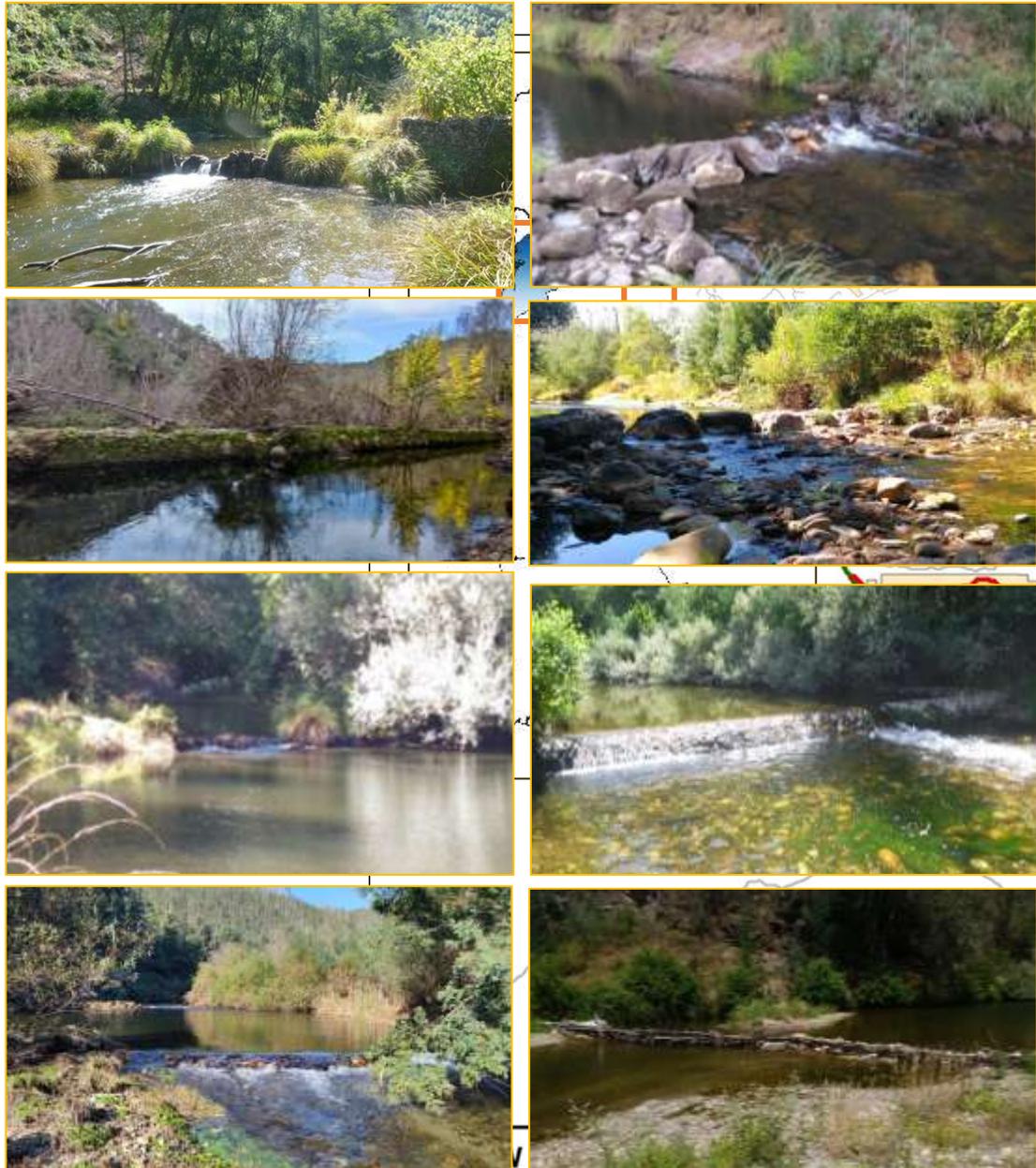




LIFE ÁGUEDA | IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO FISH MIGRATION: **REMOVALS**



LIFE ÁGUEDA | IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO FISH MIGRATION: **REMOVALS**





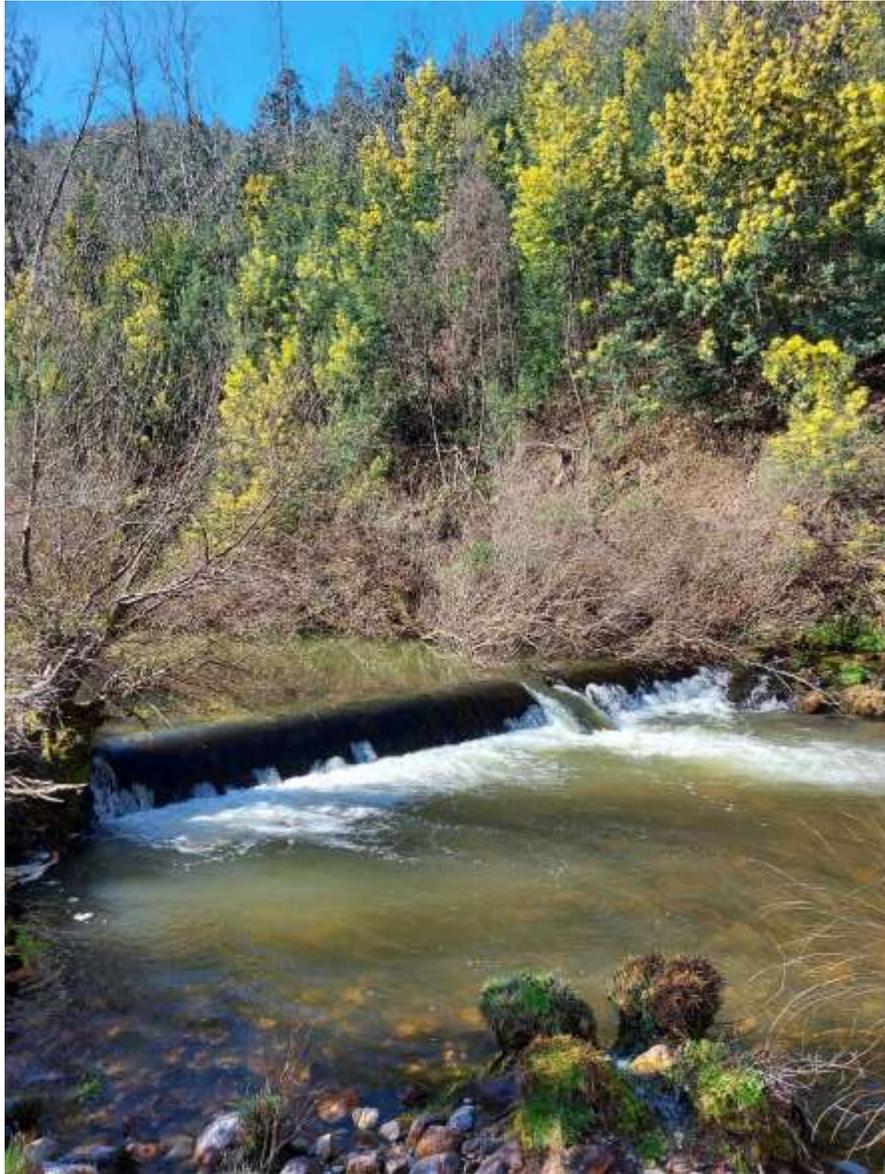
Regato weir
River Alfusqueiro





Old Weir (“Presa Velha”)
River Alfusqueiro





Cheira mills weir
River Águeda



LIFE ÁGUEDA | IDENTIFICATION OF BARRIERS TO FISH MIGRATION: **FISH PASSES**



Carvalha weir



Bolfiar weir



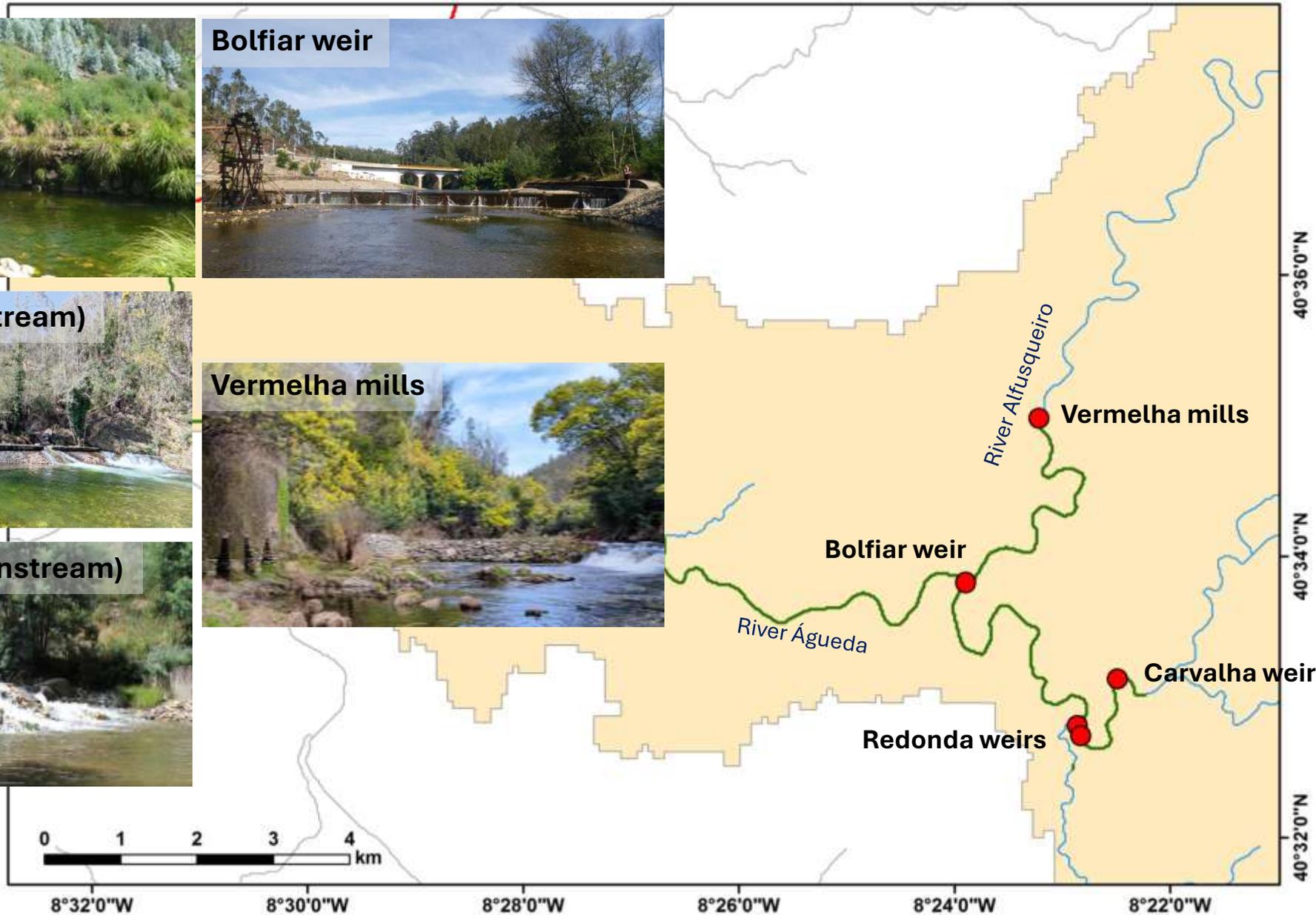
Redonda weir (upstream)



Vermelha mills



Redonda weir (downstream)



8°32'0"W 8°30'0"W 8°28'0"W 8°26'0"W 8°24'0"W 8°22'0"W

40°36'0"N 40°34'0"N 40°32'0"N



Vermelha mills weir
River Alfusqueiro





Redonda weir (downstream)
River Águeda





Bolfiar weir
River Águeda





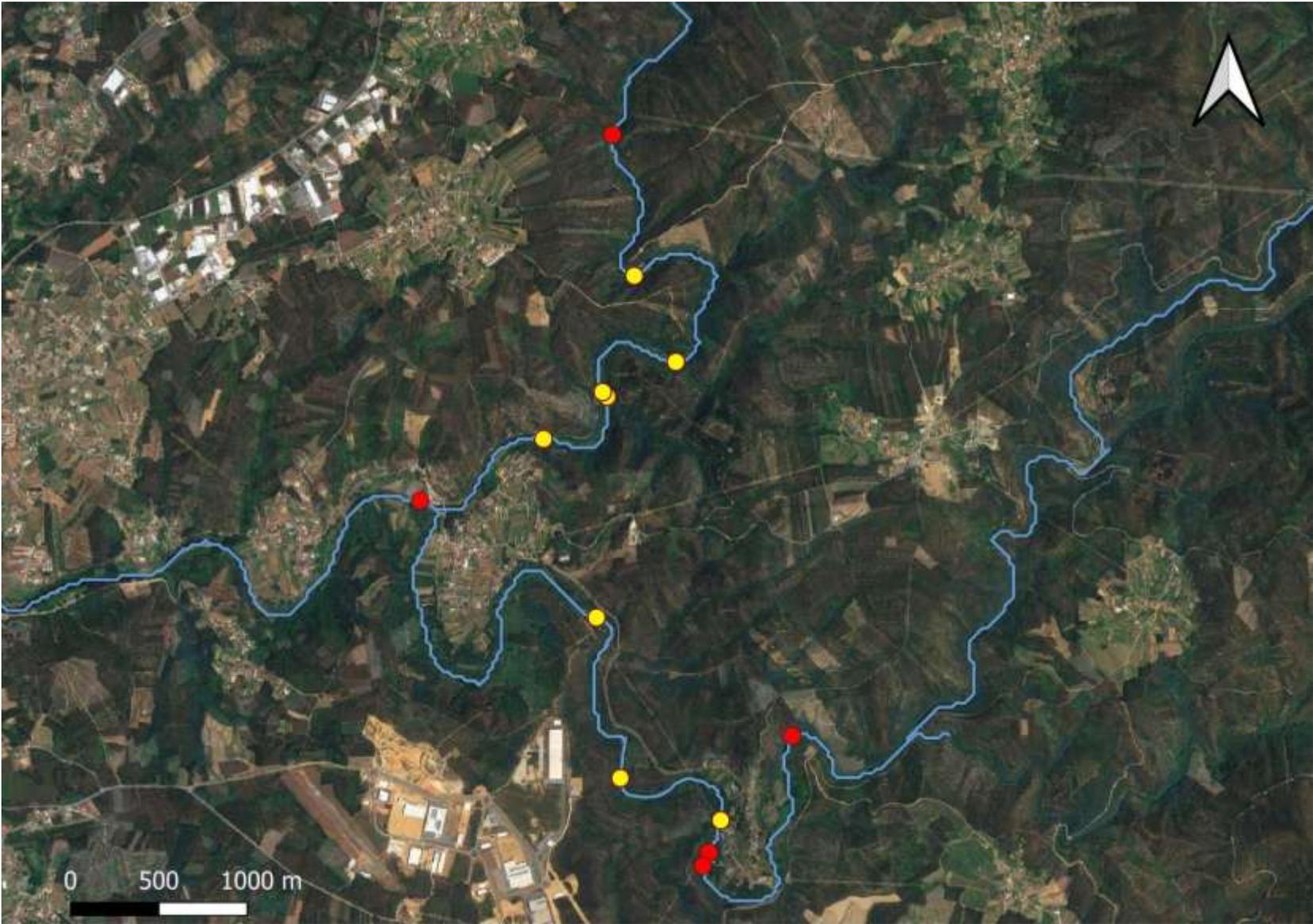
Redonda weir (upstream)
River Águeda

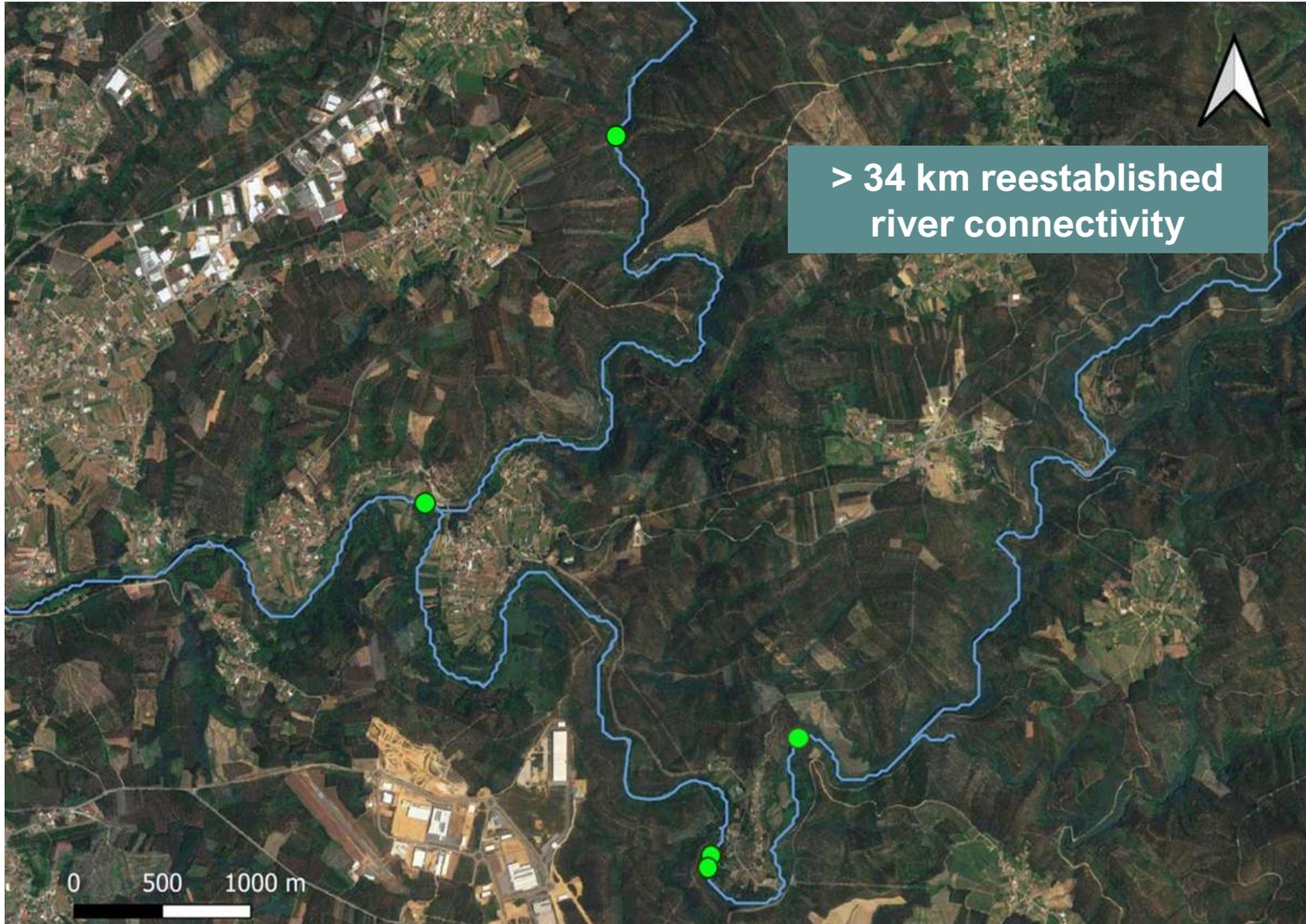




Unforeseen users

LIFE ÁGUEDA | HOW WE STARTED





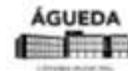
LIFE ÁGUEDA | RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION



50 km river banks benefited

LEGENDA

- ▲ C-Life_localizacao
- ◆ Obstaculos_LIFEÁgueda
- Área de intervenção LIFE Águeda
- ▭ Rede Natura 2000 - SIC / ZEC Ria de Aveiro (PTCON0061)
- ▭ Sítio Ramsar Lagoa da Pateira de Fermentelos e Vales dos Rios Águeda e Cártilma(PT2089)
- ▭ caop2020_simplificada



LIFE ÁGUEDA | RIPARIAN HABITAT RESTORATION

- Restoration/renaturalisation of riparian habitats and control of invasive alien species (IAS)



Acacia dealbata



Ação de formação



Execução



Resultado

LIFE ÁGUEDA | MAIN CHALLENGES



Feb 2022
First removals



Mar - Apr 2022
Adverse weather

Março 2022
Conclusion of removals
Start fishway construction

HAULT

Apr 2022
Continuing works...



Jul 2022
Summer – new hault
(AG9)



Jun 2023
Concluding works



Feb 2023
Continuing works...



**... Correction needed
2024**



LIFE ÁGUEDA | MAIN CHALLENGES



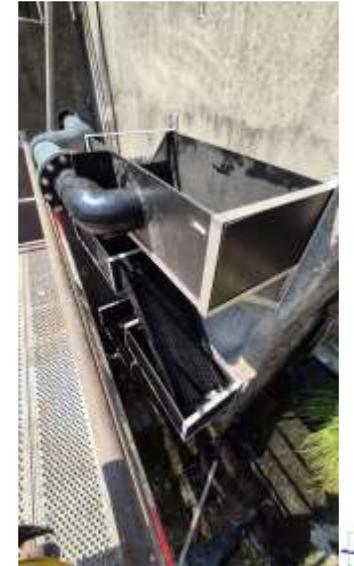
Grela weir, Sever do Vouga



Eel capture station

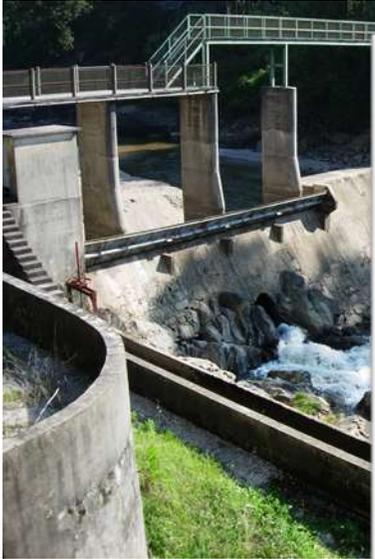


From the Vouga...

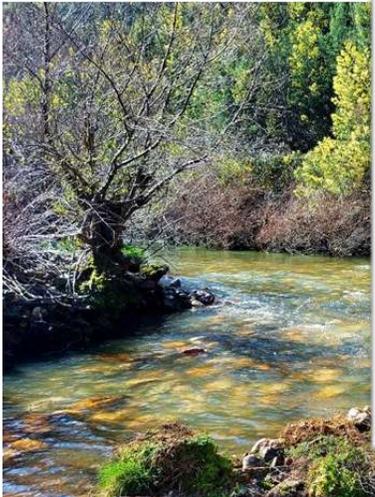


...to river Águeda

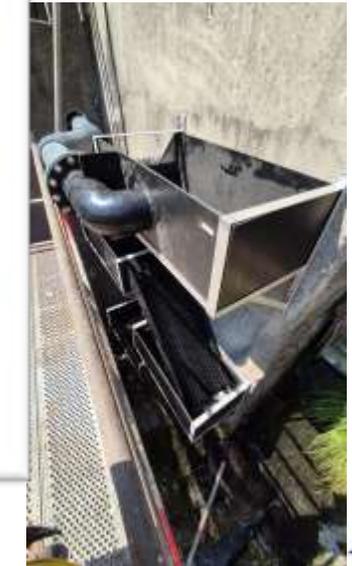
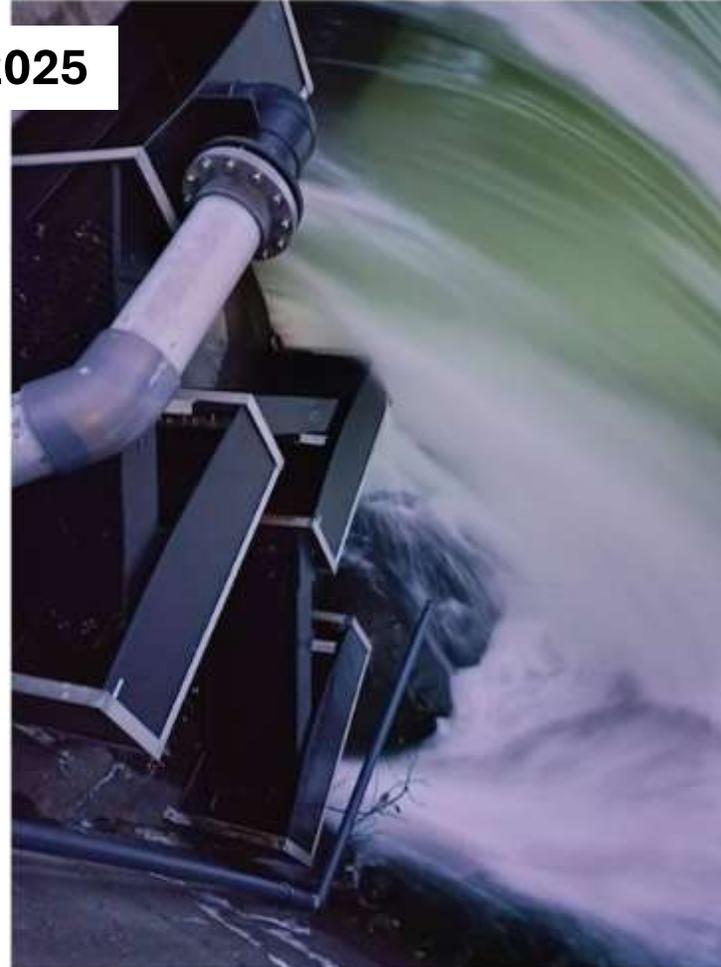
LIFE ÁGUEDA | MAIN CHALLENGES



Grela weir, Sever d



Dec '2025



...to river Águeda

LIFE ÁGUEDA | MAIN CHALLENGES

◎ D3.1 – C-RIO – RIVER INTERPRETATION CENTER

▶ “LIFE Águeda – River Interpretation Center”

- Planned to open: **Jul 2018**
- Official opening: **Jun 2025**



THE FUTURE: NATURE RESTORATION LAW



Rios e planícies aluviais

Os rios da Europa contêm mais de um milhão de barreiras artificiais, como barragens, açudes e rampas.

Os rios de curso livre permitem o movimento de água, sedimentos, peixes e outros organismos e são fundamentais para **melhorar o estado das águas da UE** e reforçar a biodiversidade.

As novas regras visam eliminar muitas das barreiras existentes nos rios da UE, a fim de assegurar uma maior continuidade das redes fluviais.

25 000 km

de rios de curso natural até 2030

Uma vez que ainda há poucos dados sobre as barreiras fluviais, um dos objetivos das novas regras é elaborar um inventário das barreiras existentes em toda a UE.

Os esforços de remoção centram-se nas barreiras que estão obsoletas e não são utilizadas.

Programa de Remoção de Infraestruturas Hidráulicas Obsoletas

Cofinanciado por:

FUNDO AMBIENTAL

UNIVERSIDADE DE ÉVORA



Programme for the Removal of Obsolete Hydraulic Infrastructure

2025

25 000 km of free-flowing rivers

WHAT'S NEXT?



INNOVATIVE AND INTEGRATED SOLUTIONS TO MITIGATE HYDROMORPHOLOGICAL PRESSURES AND ENHANCE ECOLOGICAL STATUS IN THE LIMA AND VOUGA BASINS

Leading partner:



Technical support:



Beneficiary partners:



Co-funded by
the European Union



LIFE REVIVE - Innovative and integrated solutions to mitigate hydro morphological pressures and enhance ecological status in the Lima and Vouga basins



 **PROJECT LOCATION:** Portugal

 **Total Budget:** €6,507,163.27

% EC Co-funding: 60%

 **DURATION:** 60 months

 **Coordinator:** University of Évora

 **Beneficiaries:** 8

Coordination:



Technical & Scientific Support:



Beneficiary partners:



Intervention areas
■ Lima basin
■ Vouga basin



Co-funded by the European Union





 <http://www.life-agueada.uevora.pt>

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 @LIFE.AGUEDA

Thank you!



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